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# Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

## Report of the Second Committee

*Rapporteur*: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

## I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 30th, 31st, 34th and 41st meetings, on 3, 4, 12 November and 9 December 2009. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.30, 31, 34 and 41). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 5 to 7 October (see A/C.2/64/SR.2-7).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/64/260);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General (A/64/317) transmitting his report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2009/80);



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(c) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its twenty-second session, Nairobi, 30 March-3 April 2009 (A/64/8);

(d) Letter dated 6 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Muscat Declaration on Water adopted by the Ministerial Forum on Water of the Group of 77, held from 23 to 25 February 2009 (A/64/65).

4. At the 30th meeting, on 3 November, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/64/SR.30).

## II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.32 and A/C.2/64/L.70

5. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/64/L.32), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 57/275 of 20 December 2002, 58/226 and 58/227 of 23 December 2003, 59/239 of 22 December 2004, 60/203 of 22 December 2005, 61/206 of 20 December 2006, 62/198 of 19 December 2007 and 63/221 of 19 December 2008,

"*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and 2003/62 of 25 July 2003 and Council decisions 2004/300 of 23 July 2004, 2005/298 of 26 July 2005, 2006/247 of 27 July 2006, 2007/249 of 26 July 2007, 2008/239 of 23 July 2008 and 2009/238 of 29 July 2009,

"*Recalling* the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

"*Recalling also* the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

"*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum

prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility,

"*Recognizing* that the current financial crisis could negatively affect the ability of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to mobilize resources and promote the use of incentives and market measures as well as the mobilization of domestic and international financial resources for supporting private sector investment in affordable housing,

"*Welcoming* the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for the period 2008-2013 and its efforts, as a non-resident agency, in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda into their respective development frameworks,

"*Noting* the efforts of UN-Habitat in strengthening its collaboration with international and regional development banks and domestic financial institutions to combine public and private capital with capacity-building and policy reform activities in order to improve access by the poor to water and sanitation and affordable housing finance in support of the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Welcoming* the offer of the Government of Brazil and the city of Rio de Janeiro to host the fifth session of the World Urban Forum from 22 to 26 March 2010,

"*Reaffirming* the increased importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in helping developing countries to develop capacities to achieve their national goals, including those related to sustainable human settlements and urban development,

"*Recalling* its invitation to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to keep developments in housing finance systems under review in view of the current global economic and financial crisis, and its decision to explore the possibility of convening a high-level event of the General Assembly on the subject,

"*Recognizing* the continued need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

"*Recognizing also* the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the development of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, established by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 21/10,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on

Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);

"2. *Welcomes* the efforts of UN-Habitat in the continued implementation of its Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for the period 2008-2013, and encourages Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders, to contribute to UN-Habitat so as to further strengthen its efforts in institutional reform, and the pursuit of management excellence, including results-based management;

"3. *Stresses the need* for Governments, in the light of the current economic and financial crisis for Member States, to assess the adequacy of their respective housing and related infrastructure policies to meet the needs of their growing urban populations and, in particular, the needs of the poor and other vulnerable groups, and requests UN-Habitat to assist Governments in this regard;

"4. *Encourages* Governments to promote the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization and strengthen the role and contribution of their respective local authorities in applying those principles and practice, in order to improve the living conditions of vulnerable urban populations, including slum-dwellers and the urban poor, and as a major contribution to mitigating the causes of climate change, adapting to the effects of climate change and reducing risks and vulnerabilities in a rapidly urbanizing world, including human settlements in fragile ecosystems, and invites the international donor community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

"5. *Stresses* the need to support South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, especially by mobilizing financial resources on a sustainable basis, providing technical assistance and encouraging city-to-city cooperation;

"6. *Reiterates its call* for continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions, and invites Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders, to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the strategic and institutional objectives of the Medium-term Strategic and Institutional Plan for the period 2008-2013 and its Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanization;

"7. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and the technical cooperation trust funds to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries in mobilizing public investment and private capital for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

"8. *Takes note* of the progress made in the implementation of the pilot programmes of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and in this regard urges the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the Trust Fund;

"9. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue exploring the possibility of convening a high-level special event of the General Assembly on housing finance systems in the face of the current economic and financial crisis;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the poverty eradication, gender equality, water and sanitation and slum upgrading targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the 2005 World Summit Outcome;

"11. *Reiterates its call* to the Economic and Social Council to include sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading as a cross-cutting issue in the follow-up to the outcome of relevant summits and major international conferences;

"12. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

"13. *Decides* to convene, in 2016, the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)'."

6. At its 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/64/L.70), submitted by the Rapporteur on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.32.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee agreed to the proposal of the Chairperson to waive rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to act on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.70.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

9. Also at its 41st meeting, the Rapporteur orally corrected the draft resolution by replacing the words "economic and financial crises" with the word "crisis" in the second line of operative paragraph 3 (see A/C.2/64/SR.41).

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.70, as orally corrected (see para. 12).

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.70, draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.32 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

# III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

12. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974, 32/162 of 19 December 1977, 34/115 of 14 December 1979, 56/205 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001, 57/275 of 20 December 2002, 58/226 and 58/227 of 23 December 2003, 59/239 of 22 December 2004, 60/203 of 22 December 2005, 61/206 of 20 December 2006, 62/198 of 19 December 2007 and 63/221 of 19 December 2008,

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/38 of 26 July 2002 and 2003/62 of 25 July 2003 and Council decisions 2004/300 of 23 July 2004, 2005/298 of 26 July 2005, 2006/247 of 27 July 2006, 2007/249 of 26 July 2007, 2008/239 of 23 July 2008 and 2009/238 of 29 July 2009,

*Recalling* the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[2] to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

*Recalling also* the Habitat Agenda,[3] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[4] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[5]

*Recalling further* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[6] which calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and its Slum Upgrading Facility,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] See resolution 60/1.

*Recognizing* the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements,

*Recognizing also* that the current financial crisis could negatively affect the ability of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to mobilize resources and promote the use of incentives and market measures as well as the mobilization of domestic and international financial resources for supporting private sector investment in affordable housing,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the important contribution of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to more cost-effective transitions between emergency relief, recovery and reconstruction, and also the decision to admit UN-Habitat to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

*Recognizing* the significance of the urban dimension of poverty eradication and the need to integrate water and sanitation and other issues within a comprehensive framework for sustainable development,

*Recognizing also* the importance of decentralization policies for achieving sustainable human settlements development in line with the Habitat Agenda[3] and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Welcoming* the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013 and its efforts, as a non-resident agency, in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda into their respective development frameworks,

*Noting* the request of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/5[7] for a joint examination of the governance of UN-Habitat with a view to identifying and implementing ways to improve the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the existing governance structure and to identify options for any other potential relevant changes for consideration by the Governing Council at its twenty-third session and for the Executive Director to begin work on terms of reference for this exercise,

*Noting also* the efforts of UN-Habitat in strengthening its collaboration with international and regional development banks and domestic financial institutions to combine public and private capital with capacity-building and policy reform activities in order to improve access by the poor to water and sanitation and affordable housing finance in support of the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

*Welcoming* the offer of the Government of Brazil and the city of Rio de Janeiro to host the fifth session of the World Urban Forum from 22 to 26 March 2010,

*Reaffirming* the increased importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in helping developing countries to develop capacities in order to achieve their national goals, including those related to sustainable human settlements and urban development,

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[7] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/64/8), annex I, sect. B.

*Recalling* its invitation to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to keep developments in housing finance systems under review in view of the current global economic and financial crisis, and its decision to explore the possibility of convening a high-level event of the General Assembly on the subject, and acknowledging the efforts of the Governing Council at its twenty-second session in this regard,

*Recognizing* the continued need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

*Recognizing also* the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the development of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, established by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 21/10,[8]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[9] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[10]

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of UN-Habitat in the continued implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, and encourages Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders, to contribute to UN-Habitat so as to further strengthen its efforts in institutional reform, and the pursuit of management excellence, including results-based management;

3. *Stresses the need* for Member States, taking into consideration, inter alia, the current global crisis, to assess the adequacy of their respective housing and related infrastructure policies to meet the needs of their growing urban populations and, in particular, the needs of the poor and other vulnerable groups, and requests UN-Habitat to assist Governments upon request in this regard;

4. *Encourages* Governments to promote the principles and practice of sustainable urbanization and strengthen the role and contribution of their respective local authorities in applying those principles and practices, in order to, inter alia, ensure access to basic services for all and improve the living conditions of vulnerable urban populations, slum-dwellers and the urban poor, and, as a major contribution to mitigating the causes of climate change, adapting to the effects of climate change and reducing risks and vulnerabilities in a rapidly urbanizing world, including human settlements in fragile ecosystems, and invites the international donor community to support the efforts of developing countries in this regard;

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[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/62/8), annex I, sect. B.

[9] See A/64/317, transmitting E/2009/80.

[10] A/64/260.

5. *Stresses* the need for the international community to support South-South cooperation, including through triangular cooperation, especially by mobilizing financial resources on a sustainable basis, providing technical assistance and encouraging city-to-city cooperation;

6. *Reiterates its call* for continued financial support to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary contributions, and invites Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders, to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions to support the strategic and institutional objectives of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013 and its Global Campaign on Sustainable Urbanization;

7. *Stresses* that the affordability of housing has become a major issue that needs to be addressed by mobilizing resources for the poor and other vulnerable groups;

8. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund, the Slum Upgrading Facility and the technical cooperation trust funds to enable UN-Habitat to assist developing countries in mobilizing public investment and private capital for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

9. *Acknowledges* the progress made in the implementation of the pilot programmes of the Experimental Reimbursable Seeding Operations Trust Fund of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and in this regard invites the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute to the Trust Fund;

10. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue exploring the possibility of convening a high-level special event of the General Assembly on sustainable urbanization to promote understanding of the challenges of rapid urbanization, including, inter alia, climate change, housing finance systems, urban planning and sustainable land management;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the poverty eradication, gender equality, water and sanitation and slum upgrading targets of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[2] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome;[6]

12. *Reiterates its encouragement* to the Economic and Social Council to include sustainable urbanization, urban poverty reduction and slum upgrading as a cross-cutting issue in the follow-up to the outcome of relevant summits and major international conferences;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Nairobi headquarters location of UN-Habitat, and requests the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery, in an effective manner, of necessary services to UN-Habitat and the other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi;

14. *Takes note* of the recommendation made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/1[7] and, having considered the question of convening

in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on this question, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".